

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 3rd May

- 09.00 Welsh Newton Meditation and Bible Study/Outdoor Church
09.30 Ganarew Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
11.00 Llangarron Holy Communion with Llangrove
11.00 Whitchurch Holy Communion
11.00 Wyesham Sunday Praise

Wednesday 6th May

- 18.00 Whitchurch Night prayer (Compline)

Thursday 7th May

- 10.30 Whitchurch Holy Communion
11.00 Whitchurch Bible Study

Sunday 10th May

- 09.00 Welsh Newton Holy Communion
09.30 Bishopswood Holy Communion
10.00 Llangrove Lay Led
10.00 Marstow Holy Communion
11.00 Goodrich Holy Communion
11.00 Whitchurch Sunday Praise
11.00 Wyesham Holy Communion

Thursday 14th May *Ascension Day*

- TBA Llangrove Ascension Day Service
10.30 Whitchurch Holy Communion
11.00 Whitchurch Bible Study

Sunday 17th May

- 09.00 Welsh Newton Meditation, Breakfast & Bible Study
09.30 Ganarew Sunday Praise
10.00 Llangrove Lay Led
11.00 Whitchurch Holy Communion

Services continued p43

BORDER NEWS

Wye Reaches and Wye Brooks Parish Magazine

Produced by volunteers for the community

****Your ACE 2025 Award Winning Magazine****



MAY & JUNE 2026



Supporting those caught in crisis and conflict this Pentecost

At Pentecost, we think back to that morning in Jerusalem when the Church was born. So this month, as we celebrate Pentecost, it is good to know that many Christian agencies are working hard out there in the Middle East now, to help the suffering people of Gaza, Lebanon, Israel, the West Bank.... Not to mention all the other countries where bombs are falling and people are running for their lives.

Many of the Christian agencies work through local partners to provide essential supplies like food, water, and hygiene kits, alongside psychosocial support. Unfortunately, the crisis in the Middle East has distracted world attention from Ukraine. They are still at war, and its people are still needing help. Like the Middle East numerous Christian relief agencies are active in Ukraine and its neighbouring countries, providing emergency aid to those affected by the ongoing conflict.

If you would like to send some support you might choose to send it through key organisations who mostly work through partners on the ground. These organizations work directly with local churches to aid reaches those in the most need, and include in Ukraine include Blythwood Care; CAFOD; Mission Without Borders; Operation Mobilisation; Salvation Army; and Ukraine Christian Ministries, and in the Middle East Caritas Jerusalem; Christian Aid; Embrace the Middle East; Friends of the Holy Land; Help the Persecuted; Medair; Mosaic Middle East; Samaritan's Purse; and Tearfund.

There is, however, one agency present in both areas Christian Aid and **Christian Aid Week** runs from 10th to 16th May. Since 1957, Christian Aid Week has brought faith and action together to help families survive poverty and violence, and communities rebuild after crisis.

Fund raising is all thanks to the amazing support of churches, communities and individuals.

Look out for more details in your church of how to give and take part.

WELCOME FROM YOUR CLERGY TEAM

Dear friends,

I recently found myself visiting the beautiful Brecon Cathedral, taking a little time to pause during the busyness of life. While there, I spent time with a series of meditations entitled "*Crying in the Wilderness*" by Romola Parish. Fourteen embroidered panels gently lead you on a journey - one that moves from wilderness into hope.

At the very beginning of that journey stands a simple Celtic cross. It is unadorned, almost stark, and yet it carries a deep and powerful message. It seemed to me that this cross quietly proclaims something important for all of us: in one sense, all paths lead to the cross, and all paths lead from it.



For Christians, the cross stands at the very heart of our faith - a place of suffering, love, forgiveness, and ultimately new life. But I think it has a message to people who have faith and also to those who might say that they don't have faith: it reflects something true about human experience - we all face wilderness moments. Times of uncertainty, grief, change, or searching. Times when life feels unclear or even overwhelming.

Yet the journey does not end there.

The message of the cross reminds us that beyond it lies hope - the possibility that new life can emerge even from the most difficult places. This is not just a distant or abstract idea, but something that can take shape in our everyday lives: in small beginnings, renewed hope, acts of kindness, and unexpected peace.

As we move through these next couple of months, with longer days and signs of growth all around us, I hope we will all discover moments to notice where new life is already appearing - perhaps quietly, perhaps gently – around about us and also within our own lives, and those we love dearly.

Cont'd...

The invitation of the Christian story is not simply to observe this from a distance, but to take part in it. To become, in our own way, pilgrims on a journey: people open to transformation, attentive to God at work, and hopeful that the wilderness never has the final word.

And if you find yourself in Brecon, I hope you get to visit the Cathedral and can be inspired by these wonderful panels and reflections too.

With love,



Rev Tim

Vicar – Wye Reaches group of churches



Remember in your Prayers This Month

As we welcome to our churches with the baptisms of :

The daughter of Laura and Louis who was baptised at St James' church, Wyesham, on Saturday 11th April 2026.

The daughter of Laura and Cormac who was baptised at St Peters' church, Dixton, on Sunday 12th April 2026.

Pray for the soul and life of :

Elsie Herbert whose funeral took place on Friday 6th March.

Prayers for Pentecost and Summer

On this day of Pentecost, We ask for Your Spirit to bring unity among us. Fill us with love for one another, And help us to spread Your peace and joy. Grant us wisdom and understanding, That we may know Your will and follow Your ways.

Heavenly Father, as the summer sun shines brightly, I ask for Your peace to fill my heart. Calm my anxieties and quiet my mind. Let Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard my heart and mind in Christ Jesus.



“WHY SLIMMING WORLD GROUPS STILL MATTER”

This Spring, Slimming World is proving that community-based support remains as important as ever when it comes to fresh starts, renewed motivation and weight loss goals.

Consultant Debra, who runs groups in Ross-on-Wye and Monmouth says: “slimming groups continue to play a vital role as weight-loss injections rise in popularity, there's real power in community support. The accountability that comes from losing weight alongside others is still as relevant as ever. Our approach continues to resonate with people seeking sustainable weight loss. For 56 years we've seen that real change doesn't happen in isolation – it happens when you're surrounded by people who understand your challenges – they're there for the highs and the lows, helping you to lose weight and build confidence.”

With interest in weight-loss injections growing, Debra says: “groups attract a wide range of members – from young adults to older members, each bringing their own experiences, challenges and goals. Members say the sense of belonging, accountability and encouragement they find in group is what keeps them coming back, even when new weight-loss trends emerge. Members value an approach focused on healthy eating, behaviour change and emotional support – elements that help them maintain weight loss long after the initial motivation fades.”

Slimming World's healthy eating plan, Food Optimising, is at the heart of every member's success. “Each week members learn how to enjoy a wide range of satisfying meals, build long-term healthy habits as part of their everyday life. For those taking weight-loss medication, the healthfulness of the plan is especially important, when appetite is reduced and smaller portions are required, every bite really does count. Members feel reassured that they're getting a balanced, nutritious diet, rich in protein, fibre and all the essentials their body needs.”

Debra's comments follow the release of a recent landmark University of Oxford study showing that people who stop taking weight-loss medication regain the weight they lost in under two years, four times faster than other weight loss plans. If you are interested in joining Slimming World, please see details below:

MONMOUTH: St James Community Hall, Wyesham, NP25 3JY

Tuesdays at 5.30pm & 7.00pm.

ROSS-ON-WYE: The Larruperz Centre, HR9 7QD Mondays at 9.30am, 11am & 5.30pm and Tuesdays at 7.30am & 9.00am.

Call or message Debra on 07895 257037 or simply pop along.

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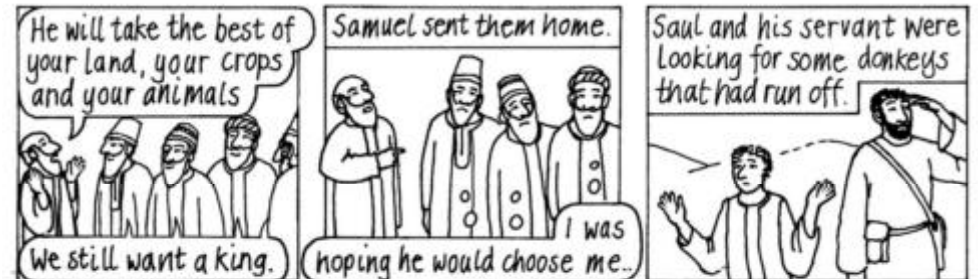
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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Samuel 8:1-10:1, 17-24

Samuel had been a good leader of Israel
but he was now old. The leaders of the
twelve tribes came to talk to him...





Time of Celebration

Message from the Bishop of Hereford

May is a month of transition. At the beginning, we can feel like we're still in winter, with frosts and rain. By the end, summer feels just around the corner with longer evenings and warmer days. Our lives are still governed by these rhythms even though many of us no longer have the farming connections we once did. Our ancestors were much more bound by the clock and the seasons. The calendar and liturgical years were intertwined; the church was more central to people's lives.

Ecclesiastes contains that well known passage about times and seasons, a time to plant and a time to harvest; a time to mourn and a time to laugh; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing. This year, our diocesan family is focusing firmly on celebration. I have always thought that the continued existence of the church is one of the surest proofs of the resurrection. How could an organisation composed of frail, sinful people like you and me still be here but for divine intervention? No other human organisation has continued in this way. The world was vastly different 1350 years ago when Putta made the gruelling journey here from Rochester to become our first Bishop. England didn't exist. Our diocese was carved out of the corner of a Mercian kingdom and part of an old Roman settlement. Over the course of our existence, kings have risen and fallen; cathedrals have been burnt down and rebuilt, fallen and been rebuilt again! Previous Bishops, in a variety of acts of architectural vandalism, have used their own (or their wealthy wife's) money to remodel the Palace and even demolish bits of it they didn't like. Meanwhile, in over 400 churches, faithful Christian people have gone about the work of the gospel. Priests have hatched, matched and dispatched, celebrated the sacraments and taught the faith. We have made the transition from Catholic to protestant; from Christendom to being a minority in a largely

Cont'd ...



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secular, indifferent and occasionally hostile culture. We have both remained faithful to the tradition and found ways to proclaim the faith afresh to each generation. There have been times of relative ease and times of real struggle. Churches have fallen down and been rebuilt, and populations have shifted.

All this has happened in the power of the Holy Spirit, whose gift we will celebrate at the end of this month. We have never had to do it on our own, dependent on our own ingenuity. To be a Christian is to be supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit. God's faithfulness and that power are definitely worth celebrating.

+Richard



50 days after Easter

By Revd Roy Shaw

Pentecost. The word means '50 days after Easter'. It's the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit as recorded in Acts chapter 2, and it's the birthday of the Church. So far so good; but beyond this, things get a bit hazy for some of us. We are familiar with the idea of God the good Father, and we've heard and read of all that Jesus - God the Son - said and did. But the Holy Spirit? *Who's He?!*

The images used of the Holy Spirit in scripture can be a bit of a barrier to understanding. Words like 'spirit' 'wind' 'flame' 'breath' are all a bit elusive, and they possibly leave us with a feeling that in trying to understand the Holy Spirit we're chasing rainbows. But if we dig a little deeper, we can see that these images speak of an unhindered force which can be powerful and yet gentle, cleansing and free.

The Bible is full of images of the Holy Spirit. There is 'dove', as seen on many Christmas cards and in stained glass windows. It's usually white. A white dove image speaks of gentleness and purity, unfettered as it wings its way across the sky.

Cont'd...

Then there's the more difficult word 'advocate'. Someone who speaks up for us, comes alongside us, someone to aid us in times of need. We could go on with different images which tell us more of the character of the Holy Spirit, but there are two key things to remember. Firstly, this is the spirit of Jesus. All that Jesus was in earthly form, the Holy Spirit is to us now. Jesus is no longer among us as He was two thousand years ago, but the Holy Spirit makes Him available to us now.

Which brings us to the second point; the Holy Spirit is given by the good Father to us, His children - giving us, as it were, an injection of Jesus' personality, wisdom and holiness, enabling us to serve as Jesus did, enabling us, as Mother Teresa put it, 'to do little things with great love'.

The first Pentecost set the young Church in Jerusalem off on a great adventure which culminated in today's world where one in three people worldwide say they are Christians. It could be a great adventure for us as we ask God, the good Father, to gift us with the Spirit of Jesus. Let's do it!



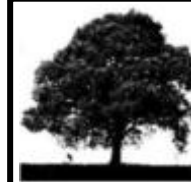
'Thy Kingdom Come' – global prayer movement marks ten years

This year the global prayer movement *Thy Kingdom Come* (TKC) will take place from Thursday 14th to Sunday 24th May. Spanning the 11 days between Ascension and Pentecost, the initiative encourages Christians to pray for five people whom they know (friends, families, neighbours) to come to faith.

It was ten years ago, in 2016, that TKC began as a call to prayer from the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York. It has since grown into a global wave of prayer, involving tens of millions of Christians, in dozens of denominations, in almost 90% countries worldwide.

This year's theme is 'God With Us', and will explore a different Bible story each day.

More information at: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>



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Football Chaplaincy

As we enter June the UK will no doubt be gripped with football fever as the 23rd FIFA World Cup takes place from June 11 to July 19. This time it is being jointly hosted by sixteen cities—eleven in the United States, three in Mexico, and two in Canada, the first time it has been hosted by three nations.

What does this have to do with football and faith? As I write this the football season is reaching its climax which means a busy period for the chaplains working inside Premier League and other clubs. We should not ignore the number of players, throughout all the leagues, who openly talk about and demonstrate their faith.

A little unknown fact is that 11 Premier League and 55 Football League clubs all have chaplains, as do clubs throughout the National League and in lower league clubs. The growth in women's football has led to more chaplains being appointed to serve women's teams.

Matt Baker is National Director for England overseeing all of English Sport for Sports Chaplaincy UK. He combines his role with being chaplain at League One side Charlton Athletic, a position he has held since March 2000, and recently gave the following interview to Rev Peter Crumpler, a Church of England minister in St Albans, Herts.

"The role of the club chaplain is to be pastorally proactive and spiritually reactive. This means being commonly present, listening and supporting people whether they have a faith or not. That could possibly be chatting to a player struggling with a long-term injury within the physio room or supporting a member of staff through a bereavement."

"From a spiritual perspective, an example of this was when a player asked me 15 years ago whether I might pray with him before a game. On one occasion there were a few players and we prayed together before every game for the remainder of that season."

Cont'd...

“This has continued ever since as there at all times appear to be Christian players within the squad and so pre-match prayers before a game have changed into a component of the regular routine for those wanting it. When we have had players of other faiths a room is also available for them for prayer.”

Matt admits to “being a people person, I like being around staff and players, attending to know them, listening and helping to support wherever I can. It’s an amazing privilege to be a chaplain at a football club and I never take that evenly. As more players of religion have come into the sport in recent times it has been a joy to be involved in a roundabout way in discipling these young men during their time on the club.”

The role goes beyond the team, Matt explains: “The chaplain is there for everybody but that very much relies on how the club see the role. Ideally it’s everyone from the star striker and the Chairman to the backroom staff and people on the stadium. There may even be some involvement with fans, for instance taking funeral services or the scattering of ashes of fans.”

Asked if it’s tougher to be a chaplain at a successful club, chasing a championship title or promotion, or one fighting relegation? Matt responds thoughtfully: “I feel in some senses it’s tougher in a successful one. When a club is struggling, either on or off the pitch, they often then really value the support of a chaplain. I do know, from my very own experience, the role was much appreciated after I was capable of getting alongside staff going through redundancy after relegation.”

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DIXTON

Kate Richards - kate@summerleas.com

We celebrated **Easter Day** in sunshine and a small congregation but the flowers were beautiful, and a robin joined us for the service! Thankfully he had found his way out (probably our dubious singing put him off!) by the time we finished.

Sunday 24th is our **May service** at 9.30am, and we celebrate our **Patronal festival** on Sunday June 28th. We usually have a bring and share lunch afterwards, but with the earlier service time this year, we will have coffee and cake instead, outside in the churchyard if the weather behaves! All are welcome to join us.

MARSTOW

Sue Rolfe rolfe653@btinternet.com Tel: 07971 411020

Website: marstowchurch.org

West End bookings Phyll Hannah 01989 770617

CHURCH NEWS and EVENTS

Palm Sunday Commemorating Jesus's entry into Jerusalem and the start of Holy Week, the congregation were given small crosses made from palms. The service began with a triumphant "Hosanna" and ended with the sober anticipation of Good Friday.

Easter Morning Dawn Service It was a very early start and a magical experience for the 22 worshippers that arrived to celebrate our early morning service which focused on the resurrection, hope and new life. The service was held outside and the firepit was very welcome to warm us up as the skies brightened to reveal the sunrise in the East. Breakfast of hot cross buns and toast was served in church and it was a perfect start to Easter Sunday.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, July 25th **Quiz Night**, Ganarew & Whitchurch Memorial Hall, 7.00pm Our Quiz Nights are always popular and we are very pleased that we are once again joining with St Swithins, Ganarew to bring you another fun evening with our usual delicious refreshments included and a pay bar. Price Adults £10 children under 15 years £5.00. For tickets phone Sue Rolfe 07971 411020.

ST MATTHEW'S WEST END EVENTS

Saturday 16th Illustrated Talk with Refreshments **Hero of The Forest: Warren James** This will be a popular, free event funded by the Lottery Heritage Fund (see separate advertisement p24). Graham O'Connell will excite us with the tale of a local hero. Wine and delicious snack food will be served. Donations to the church will be welcome.

Wednesday May 20th and June 17th **Marstow Makers Craft Evening**, 7.00– 9.30pm Come along for a relaxed evening of crafting. If you don't fancy joining in the planned activity, you are welcome to bring your own project to work on, or to just come along for some company. Refreshments will be on offer. Sessions are free to attend. Hopefully see you there.

ST MATTHEW'S FREE FOOD BASKET

A reminder to feel welcome to use our free food basket in the church if you are struggling financially to buy groceries.

If you are able to make a donation for this project please see our website or phone Sue Rolfe (See above).

Tuesday 26th next **Parish Council meeting** St Matthew's West End, 7.30pm. See the Parish Council website for future dates and agendas marstowpc.org.uk. A list of Marstow Parish councillors is also on the website.



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LLANGARRON

Helen Edwards edwardshelen82@gmail.com

www.llangarron.info & Facebook Llangarron Village Hall

Friday 8th **Bao to the Broth Asian Food Van and Pop-up Pub Night** from 6.00pm Bao to the Broth, (based in Hereford and voted West Midlands Regional Best Restaurant), will be at the Garron Centre car park selling their delicious authentic modern Japanese Cuisine. Vegetarian options will be available.

Saturday 16th **Community Cafe** 10.30-12.30pm The cafe will be open to all serving teas, coffees, cakes, and delicious bacon sandwiches. Well behaved dogs are very welcome to come along with their faithful owners.

Saturday 30th **Village Quiz Night** from 6.30pm Judith and David, quiz masters extraordinaire, will be back to challenge teams of 6 for another evening of quizzing and puddings. Tickets £12 per person with puddings served during the interval. Please book your team places now by emailing hello@llangarron.info. There are only a few team places left for this very popular evening, therefore please book soon to avoid disappointment.

Friday 12th June **Pop-up Pub and Food Van Night** from 6.00pm More information may be found on the village Face Book page and Newsletter.

Saturday 20th June **Community Café** 10.30-12.30pm. The cafe will be open to all serving teas, coffees, cakes, and delicious bacon sandwiches. Well behaved dogs are very welcome to come along with their faithful owners.

Please check the Village Calendar <https://www.llangarron.info/events-calendar> for news of all (and other) events to confirm dates.

Cheese & Wine For St Deinst

Thursday 28th May 7.00pm

More information re this community event

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BISHOPSWOOD

Sunday 6th May & 14th June will be our next **Sunday services** in Bishopswood at 9.30am and you would be warmly welcomed as we gather together in the Village Hall.

And some (very) advanced notice – Park End Silver Brass Band will be joining us for our **Christmas Carol Service**, at the Village Hall, at 3.00pm on Sunday 20th December. Do put the date in your diary so that you can join us for what will be a lovely afternoon together.

Rev Tim

Saturday 9th **Cafe Bishopswood** 10.00am – Midday Delicious cakes and refreshments (Gluten free available)

Sunday 17th **Car Boot & Table Top Sale** Set up from 8.00am Starts 10.00am – 2.00pm £5 per car or £10 per van

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Saturday 6th June **Ceilidh Dance** 7.00pm - £12 per ticket

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Saturday 13th Junen **Cafe Bishopswood** 10.00am – Midday Delicious cakes and refreshments (Gluten free available)

GANAREW

Sue Harley sueharleymcsp@yahoo.co.uk Tel 01600 890489

Easter Service We had a good number in St. Swithins on Easter Sunday, including 4 from Orchard house,

Save the date

Saturday 25th July A reminder of our joint fund raiser with Marstow church. This will be a **Quiz Night** at Whitchurch and Ganarew village hall. Tickets £10 which includes a ploughman's supper. Up to 6 people per table. Please come and support us.



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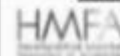
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Sunday 31st **Outdoor Church Goes Wild** 2.00 - 4.00pm a FREE family afternoon of bushcraft, Bible stories, food and fun at Buckholt Bryngaer Woodland - a sheltered hilltop base camp with views of the Black Mountains, toilets and parking. Keep a look out for more information and booking details at ourcountrychurch.co.uk/eco or email stmaryswelshnewton@gmail.com to register your interest.

Sunday 21st June **Midsummer service and picnic** 11.00am Join us for our midsummer service and picnic at the wonderful, ancient church of St John's Llanrothal, celebrating the annual festival of St John the Baptist, the church's patron saint. After the service there will be a bring-and-share picnic.

Sunday 12th July **Summer BBQ** we are holding a BBQ in Welsh Newton Common for local friends and anyone interested in what we do at St Mary's. More details to follow - in the meantime do get it in your diary!

GOODRICH

Marlene Corker marlenecorker@yahoo.co.uk

Emily Bronte wrote, "May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope" and an unknown writer said, "May is proof that change can be beautiful." We hope and pray that this is true across the world.

Saturday 27th June **The Village Fete** we are all looking forward to it and if you would like to help, perform or exhibit, please email Tobin, tobin@arthuragence.co.uk and rosiewinyard@hotmail.com

On the creative front, **St Giles** is looking for someone to help us create a **new website**. Please get in touch if you think you could help.

Wednesday 3rd June **Open Garden** from 2.00 - 5.30pm to raise money for The Butterfly Thyroid Cancer Trust. Teas, coffee, cake and prosecco. £5 per head at Pantry Cottage. In the event of inclement weather, it will be held on Wednesday 10th.

Goodrich Church of England Primary School

Open the Book We like it when Open the Book comes in for Collective Worship. They told us the story of **Two Cries for Help**. In the story, Jesus performs two miracles. In the first miracle, he healed a lady who had been ill for 12 years. The lady touched Jesus in a crowd, and he felt the power leave him as it passed to her and healed her. In the second miracle, he saved a child whose parents had thought she was dead. This story teaches us that we can put our faith in Jesus and ask for help when we need it.

Village Hall Events

Thursday 28th **Flicks in the Sticks "I Swear"** (15) will be shown, starring Robert Aramayo and Maxine Peake. John Davidson was diagnosed with Tourette's Syndrome at a young age, which alienated him from his peers. Tickets cost £5 and can be brought at www.goodrichvillagehall.co.uk Doors open at 7pm, and the bar will be open.

We have yet to decide the film in June, so please keep an eye out on Facebook and the website for information.

WYESHAM

Jo Townsend & Marguerite Gordon
jotown223@hotmail.com marguerite.gordon@btinternet.com

MAY

Saturday 2nd **Wyedean Embroiderers** 10.30am -2.30pm St James' Community Hall.

Tuesday 5th until Friday 8th **Wyesham Together Week** with Kymin View School

Wednesday 6th **Monmouth Breast Cancer Support Group** 2.00pm
Woodland View Stores

Monday 11th **Wyesham Together Tea and Toast** 9.00-10.00am Kymin View School



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Monday 11th **Craft Creators** are now meeting in St James' Community Hall until their home in Bridges is habitable. 10.00am - 2.30pm. All Crafters Welcome

Monday 11th **Ladies Prayer Group** 2.00pm Wyesham

Monday 11th **WI AGM** 7.00pm St James Community Hall

Thursday 14th **Bingo** 7.00pm St James Community Hall

Monday 18th **Wyesham Together Tea and Toast** 9.00 -10.00am Kymin View School

Thursday 28th **Bingo** 10.00am St James' Community Hall

Saturday 30th **Community Coffee Morning** 10.00am -12 noon St James' Church

JUNE

Monday 1st **Wyesham Together Tea and Toast** 9.00 -10.00am Kymin View School

Wednesday 3rd **Monmouth Breast Cancer Support Group** 2.00pm Woodland View Stores

Saturday 6th **Wyedean Embroiderers** 10.30am - 2.30pm St James' Community Hall

Monday 8th **Wyesham Together Tea and Toast** 9.00 -10.00am Kymin View School

Monday 8th **Ladies Prayer Group** 2.00pm Wyesham Christian Fellowship

Monday 8th **Craft Creators** 10.00am -14.30pm St James' Community Hall

Monday 8th **WI** 7.00pm St James' Community Hall

Thursday 11th **Bingo** 7.00pm St James Community Hall

Monday 15th **Wyesham Together Tea and Toast** 9.00 -10.00am Kymin View School

Saturday 27th **Community Coffee Morning** 10.00am -12 noon St James' Church



WHITCHURCH

Brigid Hamilton-Jones brigidhj@aol.com

May Bank Holiday Afternoon Teas at St Dubricius

3rd and 4th ; 24th and 25th Sunday and Monday afternoons 2.00-4.00pm. We will again be offering our Bank Holiday teas to visitors from near and far. All are welcome. Come and enjoy the peace and beauty of our church and churchyard by the river and free afternoon tea!

Wednesdays 6th and 20th and June 17th **Community coffee mornings** at St Dubricius, 10.30-12 noon.

Tuesday 5th, 12th and 19th and June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th **Sticky Little Fingers** at St Dubricius, 9.30-11.00am. Babies and toddlers with their carers are most welcome.

Saturday 9th **Travelling Light Retreat** at St Dubricius Church. 10.00am -4.00pm. **'Hope is on the Way'** continues the theme of 'Travelling with God'. Booking is essential, so please email travellinglight@supanet.com. Website <https://travelling-light.org.uk>

Every Thursday afternoon **Knit & Natter Group** at St Dubricius, 2.00-4.00pm

Events at Whitchurch and Ganarew Memorial Hall

We have two films coming up for your enjoyment.

22nd May: **One Battle After Another**, starring Leonardo Di Caprio, Sean Penn, Benicio Del Toro and Chase Ininiti. Washed-up revolutionary Bob (DiCaprio) exists in a state of stoned paranoia, surviving off grid with his spirited, self-reliant daughter, Willa (Ininiti). When his evil nemesis (Penn) resurfaces after 16 years and she goes missing, the former radical scrambles to find her, father and daughter both battling the consequences of his past. The film is based on the Thomas Pynchon novel *Vineland*.

19th June: **H is for Hawk**, starring Claire. Foy, Brendan Gleeson and Sam Spruell. A true story based on the memoir of Helen Macdonald. When Helen's beloved father passes away, she is knocked sideways by grief and loses herself in memories of their time birding and exploring the natural world together. She becomes obsessed with the



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Friday 1st May at 8pm

THE INVISIBLE MAN Our Star Theatre Co
Wednesday May 6th at 7.30

MATT HAIG The Midnight Train
Friday May 15th at 7pm

WYNNE EVANS Beyond Compare
Wednesday 20th May at 7.45pm

MILTON JONES AND FRIENDS
Saturday May 23rd at 8pm

POP QUEENS
Monday May 25th at 7pm

WELSH OF THE WEST END
Saturday May 30th at 7.30

ON SCREEN

GLENROTHAN (12a) May 1st - 7th

THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE (pg)
May 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 9th & 10th

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2 (tbc) May 8th - 21st

THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE (pg) May 17th & 18th

MICHAEL (12a) May 22nd-28th

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES (pg) May 23rd - 28th

For cinema listings please see website

WWW.MONMOUTH-SAVOY.CO.UK

idea of training her own goshawk, and so she brings the fearsome bird Mabel home to her life as a graduate fellow at Cambridge University.

Screening for both films starts at 7.30pm. Doors open 7.00pm. Tickets at the door £5.00. Licensed bar and snacks available. For more information contact wandghall@hotmail.com

LLANGROVE

Wendy Price Wendyllangrove@gmail.com,
www.llangrove.org uk & llangrovelinks@yahoo.co.uk

Wednesday 13th May and 10th June **Coffee Mornings** from 10.30am at Llangrove Village Hall Amazing Raffle. Good company!

2nd, 6th May and 6th, 10th June from 9.30am **Tretawdy Nature Reserve** Volunteers needed

Every Friday **Warm Welcome** from 11.00am at Llangrove Village Hall

Monday 4th **Llangrove May Fayre** between 12noon and 4.00pm at Llangrove Academy. New this year Circus skills for all ages equipment and experts on hand. Come and have a go!

We are looking for helpers on the day and contributions of Plants, Nearly New items, Cuddly Toys (please leave at Ty-Angles) and Cakes to be brought on the day. ACEG are hosting a **nature extravaganza** with a marquee of nature goodies: Table of Death!, Splat the Tree Rat, Wonderweb, Message to Nature, Buzz the Hedgehog, owl pellet dissection, fun nature crafts and lots more. Hear about the Nature Restoration Project and our 5-year plan. Money raised to be shared between Llangrove Village Hall, Llangrove Academy P.T.F.A., Christ Church and Amenities for children in the village.

Llangrove & District Gardening Society

Saturday 30th May **Plant Sale and Cream Teas** Saturday 15th August **Annual Show** Members only summer outings are being organised to Stockton Bury Gardens, Melcourt Composts and the Ledbury Flower Farm. Contact: llangrovegardeningociety@outlook.com for details on how to join.

NEW Saturday 20th June from 2.30pm There will be a display in church of **Wedding dresses, Christening gowns** etc. over the ages. Take the opportunity to enjoy the Church's spectacular Reredos, an Arts and Crafts-style War Memorial, the impressive East Window and the first church designed by the architect, George Bodley, who also worked on the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Investigate the development of our village; the impact of a crashed Wellington Bomber; jobs people did in the past etc; Home made refreshments; Children's activities.

Christ Church Food Bank continues to be available and used. Accessible to all. Please add to if you can and help yourself as needed.



National Biscuit Day – 29th May

If you're reading this with a cuppa and a biscuit read on. Did you know that Britain is the country with the highest biscuit consumption in the world? Biscuits have been part of our daily lives for centuries. Their dose of sweet, tasty comfort is loved by 2-year-olds and 90-year-olds, and every age in between.

According to industry research, we each eat about 500 biscuits a year, so National Biscuit Day is held each year to honour this beloved snack. Our national favourite seems to be the chocolate digestive, followed by shortbread and chocolate fingers. The McVitie's Digestive, first produced in 1892, is one of the most iconic biscuits in British history. Today, it remains a bestseller alongside other classics like the Rich Tea, the Bourbon, and the Jammie Dodger.

The word 'biscuit' comes from the Latin *panis biscotus*, meaning 'twice-cooked bread', producing a 'biscuit' durable enough for long journeys. The Persians in about the seventh century added eggs, butter, cream, and sugar and honey to their recipes, making a sweet biscuit.

The decorative tin was invented by Huntley and Palmers in 1831 to keep biscuits fresh.

Happy dunking !! *Ed*

Your business shouldn't pay the price for pollution.
Join over 4,000 individuals and local businesses in the biggest ever group legal action to be brought over UK environmental pollution.

Has your business suffered from the effects of pollution in the rivers Wye, Lugg or Usk?

More than 4,000 individuals and local businesses have joined the biggest ever group legal action to be brought over UK environmental pollution. The claim, led by leading law firm Leigh Day, alleges that excessive phosphorus from the spreading of chicken manure by the Avara Foods Poultry Group (which includes Avara Foods Limited and Freemans of Newent) as well as sewage from works by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, are the main causes of pollution affecting the rivers.

The major action, issued at the High Court, was prompted by changes to the Wye, its tributaries including the Lugg, and the Usk, with alleged impacts on wildlife, recreation and the livelihood of business owners. A growing number of business owners across the Wye, Lugg and Usk catchments are joining forces in a landmark legal action, as environmental damage continues. Those who have joined include people from your local area and small businesses reliant on tourists such as bed and breakfasts and other hospitality businesses, people with AirBNBs, and swimming or fishing businesses.

The claim is led by Leigh Day partner Oliver Holland. He said: "If the claim succeeds it could bring real change. Some people just want to protect their rivers, and the claim could help stop the pollution and clean up the rivers. Other people and businesses have suffered serious financial losses, and the claim could help put them back where they would have been if the rivers weren't polluted."

The claim is open for other business owners to join. To join the legal action or to find out more, visit <https://www.leighday.co.uk/our-services/group-claims/river-wye-claim/> or scan the QR code



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**Sat 9th May & 11th
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Lets get you repaired for a summer of baking and cooking.

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**The Hero of the
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Sat 16th May 7pm
St Matthews Church**



Fighting for ancient rights, James led 3000 Foresters in open revolt for which he paid a high price. His personal story from down-trodden miner to celebrated hero is full of courage, tragedy and an enduring legacy. Join us for an illustrated talk by Graham O'Connell.

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**EAT CHEESE AND DRINK WINE FOR ST DEINST,
LLANGARRON – 7PM THURSDAY 28TH MAY AT THE
GARRON CENTRE**

Two recent contrasting events have shown the affection in which St Deinst is held within the wider Llangarron community. The Carol Service just before Christmas saw St Deinst packed to the rafters, and in January this year, a bingo evening in aid of St Deinst saw the sold-out signs raised.

And no wonder. The idyllic church building, originating as it does in the fourteenth century, is very close to being anyone's ideal of the archetypal English country church. The church sits proud, right at the heart of Llangarron, and the churchyard is the closest to what can be described as public realm within the village.

Simon Jenkins, the celebrated author and commentator, in his book about English Parish Churches argued that their future was as community hubs as well as centres of local worship. As congregations at organised services tend to be small in number, Jenkins has since suggested that the future for many local churches was bleak without reinvention within communities.

It is no different for St Deinst in Llangarron. Notwithstanding that St Deinst can be said to be already ahead of what Jenkins envisages, in that a large proportion of the church has been given over to a thriving community facility, the challenges St Deinst will need to confront in the coming years are significant.

But there is always a but and this case there are two but!!! The village community has recently sent the PCC feedback about certain approaches the PCC has taken recently and this is recognised and the PCC is anxious to listen. The other but is that maintaining a grade one listed fourteenth century building and its environment is all but beyond the reach of a small regular congregation. If St Deinst is to remain a thriving facility in the life of the Llangarron community then it needs to embrace the community as well as its communion. Likewise, the Llangarron community needs to embrace St Deinst.

The Llangarron PCC would like to explore new ways in which St Deinst and the wider Llangarron community can be brought together with the aim of ensuring St Deinst remains a proud part of everyone's enjoyment of living in our village. At the moment the PCC consider this might be achieved by establishing a Friends of St Deinst group where there can be a fruitful and useful two-way conversation.

To get the ball rolling and start the conversation the PCC will host a free community wine and cheese evening on Thursday 28th May at the Garron Centre at 7pm. Everyone is welcome but if you would like to attend it would help the catering logistics if you could indicate this to Adrian Lewis by email at adriansl@btinternet.com

PARISH EVENTS AT A GLANCE



Every Tuesday Sticky Little Fingers St Dubricius Whitchurch 9.30 - 11.00

May

- 2nd Tretawdy Nature Reserve volunteer session 9.30
Wyedean Embroiderers St James' Community Hall 10.00 - 14.30
- 3rd & 4th Bank Holiday Afternoon Teas St Dubricius Whitchurch 14.00 - 16.00
- 4th Llangrove May Fayre Llangrove School 12.00 - 16.00
- 5th to 8th Wyesham Together Week
- 6th Tretawdy Nature Reserve volunteer session 9.30
Community Coffee Morning St Dubricius Whitchurch 10.30 - 12.00
Monmouth Breast Cancer Support Group Wyesham 14.00
- 8th 'Bao to Broth Asian' Food Van & Pop Up Pub Garron Centre 18.00
- 9th Café Bishopswood at Village Hall 10.00 - 12.00
Travelling Light Retreat St Dubricius Whitchurch 10.00 - 16.00
ACEG Repair Café Llangrove Village Hall 14.00 - 16.00
- 11th Wyesham Together Tea and Toast Kymin View School 9.00-10.00
Craft Creators St James' Community Hall Wyesham 10.00 - 14.30
Ladies prayer Group Wyesham Christian Fellowship 14.00
WI St James' Community Hall Wyesham 19.00
- 13th Coffee Morning Llangrove Village Hall 10.30
- 14th Bingo St James' Community Hall 19.00
ACEG 'Beavers on our Doorstep?' Llangrove Village Hall 19.30
- 16th Community Café Garron Centre 10.30 - 12.30
'Hero of the Forest' Talk St Matthews West End Marstow 19.00
- 17th Car Boot & Table Top Sale Bishopswood Village Hall 10.00 - 14.00
- 18th Wyesham Together Tea and Toast Kymin View School 9.00-10.00
- 20th Community Coffee Morning St Dubricius Whitchurch 10.30 - 12.00
Marstow Makers Craft Evening St Matthews West End Marstow 19.00
- 22nd Film Night 'One Battle After Another' Goodrich Village Hall 19.00
- 24th & 25th Bank Holiday Afternoon Teas St Dubricius Whitchurch 14.00 - 16.00



Farming Celebrates

Our rural parishes are nestled into beautiful farmland and June is the month to acknowledge the work our farmers undertake.

Many of you probably enjoy fresh milk from our friends at Great Trewen Farm and I have discovered that 1st June is **World Milk Day**. It's a well-known fact that milk is rich with calcium, a mineral that promotes healthy teeth and bone, and this day been set aside to celebrate all things milk.

How can you celebrate such a momentous occasion? Perhaps beginning the day with a glass of fresh, cold milk or a big bowl of cereal full of delicious milk?

The 2025 campaign brought the global dairy community together under the theme "*Let's Celebrate the Power of Dairy*". The campaign involved more than 100 countries from Australia to Zimbabwe, and showcased compelling evidence of the solutions dairy offers to people, economies and the planet.

Check the World Milk Day website to get access to all the needed information to make plans for this day. www.worldmilkday.org

Farm Sunday 7th June

It might be you fancy visiting a local farm as part of the Farm Sunday celebrations. For those who do it an incredible opportunity to learn more about what goes on, to meet our local farming community. Open Farm Sunday has been introducing people of all ages to our amazing farmers who produce the great food we all love to eat.

Celebrating over 20 years, this landmark celebrates farming's rich heritage, organised nationally by the global sustainable farming charity LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming).

Details of farms opening to mark the day can be found at farmsunday.org

The History and Origins of Father's Day in the United Kingdom

Father's Day in the United Kingdom is celebrated on the third Sunday of June, much like in the United States and many other countries. However, the concept of honouring fathers has existed for centuries in various cultures. In Catholic Europe, Saint Joseph's Day, observed on March 19, was historically associated with fatherhood, as Saint Joseph was regarded as the earthly father of Jesus Christ. This tradition was carried to Spanish and Portuguese colonies, where it became a customary day to recognize paternal figures.

The modern Father's Day celebration in the UK is directly linked to the efforts made in the United States. The first known Father's Day observance in the US took place on July 5, 1908, in Fairmont, West Virginia, as a tribute to fathers who had died in a mining disaster.

Father's Day in the United Kingdom

The tradition of celebrating Father's Day gradually spread to the United Kingdom, but it did not become an official holiday until much later. In fact, it wasn't until 1972 that Father's Day was formally recognized in the UK.

Before its official recognition, Father's Day was observed in the UK in various ways. Some people celebrated it on June 5, which coincided with the feast day of St. Boniface, the patron saint of fathers. Others followed the American tradition and observed it on the third Sunday in June.

By the late 20th century, Father's Day had become widely accepted in the UK, with families using the occasion to express appreciation for fathers and father figures. Today, it is celebrated with cards, gifts, meals, and family gatherings, similar to Mother's Day.

So on Sunday 21st June, don't forget to honour that important paternal figure in your life be it father, stepfathers, adoptive fathers, grandfathers, and mentors.

Ed



- 28th Bingo St James' Community Hall 19.00
Film Night 'I Swear' Ganarew & Whitchurch Memorial Hall 19.00
Cheese and Wine for St Deinst Garron Centre 19.00
- 30th Coffee Morning St James' Church 10.00 - 12.00
Outdoor Church Goes Wild at Buckholt Woodlands 14.00 -16.00
LDGS Plant Sale & Cream Teas Llangrove Village Hall
Quiz Night Garron Centre 18.30

June

- 1st Wyesham Together Tea and Toast Kymin View School 9.00-10.00
- 3rd Monmouth Breast Cancer Support Group Wyesham 14.00
Pantry Cottage Open Garden 14.00 -17.30
- 6th Tretawdy Nature Reserve volunteer session 9.30
Wyedean Embroiderers St James' Community Hall 10.00 - 14.30
Ceilidh Dance Bishopswood Village Hall 19.00
- 8th Wyesham Together Tea and Toast Kymin View School 9.00-10.00
Craft Creators St James' Community Hall Wyesham 10.00 - 14.30
Ladies prayer Group Wyesham Christian Fellowship 14.00
WI St James' Community Hall Wyesham 19.00
- 10th Tretawdy Nature Reserve volunteer session 9.30
Coffee Morning Llangrove Village Hall 10.30
- 11th Trip to St Fagans from Whitchurch & Wyesham (See ad)
Bingo St James' Community Hall 19.00
- 12th Food Van tbc & Pop Up Pub Garron Centre 18.00
- 13th Café Bishopswood Village Hall 10.00 - 12.00
ACEG Repair Café Llangrove Village Hall 14.00 - 16.00
- 15th Wyesham Together Tea and Toast Kymin View School 9.00-10.00
- 17th Community Coffee Morning St Dubricius Whitchurch 10.30 - 12.00
Marstow Makers Craft Evening St Matthews West End Marstow 19.00
- 19th Film Night 'H is for Hawk' Ganarew & Whitchurch Memorial Hall 19.00
- 20th Community Café Garron Centre 10.30 - 12.30
Exhibition Wedding Dresses Christ Church 14.30
- 27th Coffee Morning St James' Church 10.00 - 12.00
Village Fete Goodrich

JUNE CHURCH SERVICES

Wednesday 3rd June

18.00 Whitchurch Night prayer (Compline)

Thursday 4th June

10.30 Whitchurch Holy Communion

11.00 Whitchurch Bible Study

Sunday 7th June

09.00 Welsh Newton Meditation and Bible Study/Outdoor Church

09.30 Ganarew Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.00 Llangrove Holy Communion with Llangarron

11.00 Whitchurch Holy Communion

11.00 Wyesham Sunday Praise

Thursday 11th June

10.30 Whitchurch Holy Communion

11.00 Whitchurch Bible Study

Sunday 14th June

09.00 Welsh Newton Holy Communion

09.30 Bishopswood Holy Communion at the Village Hall

10.00 Llangrove Lay Led

10.00 Marstow Holy Communion

11.00 Goodrich Holy Communion

11.00 Whitchurch Sunday Praise

11.00 Wyesham Chatty Church

Wednesday 18th June

18.00 Whitchurch Taizé Prayer

Thursday 18th June

10.30 Whitchurch Holy Communion

11.00 Whitchurch Bible Study



Sunday 21st June

09.00 Welsh Newton Meditation, Breakfast & Bible Study

09.30 Ganarew Sunday Praise

10.00 Llangrove Holy Communion

11.00 Whitchurch Holy Communion

11.00 Wyesham Holy Communion

18.00 Llangarron Evening Prayer

Wednesday 25th June

18.00 Whitchurch Taizé Prayer

Sunday 28th June

09.30 Dixton Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) for the patronal festival of St Peter

10.00 Llangrove Lay Led

10.00 Marstow Short Lay Led Family service

11.00 Goodrich Holy Communion

11.00 Llanrothal Holy Communion with picnic after

11.00 Whitchurch Sunday Praise

11.00 Wyesham Holy Communion

Wye Reaches Group of Churches

Day Trip to St. Fagans

Thursday 11th June £10 per person

Departing: Whitchurch 9.30am

Wyesham 9.45am approx.

Returning from St. Fagan at 4.00pm

Arriving: Wyesham & Whitchurch between

5.00 -5.30pm approx.

More details contact Sue Morris 07773437329

Bookings close Monday 18th May

IT'S THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

*We're all going on a summer day
a church trip on our joyful way
to St Fagans where there's a day
of fun along with us - don't miss the day!*

*We walk, we laugh, we share our bread,
with quiet reverence softly agreed,
then dinner we go with hearts made light,
a day of grace, a pure delight.*

Join us as we head off this summer to explore the magnificent St Fagans castle and grounds, with over 100 historic buildings & set in 100 acres. If you fancy visiting the castle then there is plenty of time to sit on and enjoy the grounds. We will be the people to meet.

Bring a picnic. Use the outdoor toilets. Book. Chat to see and tell friends from our churches. Who knows we might even play bingo or have a singing on the bus!

But most importantly, take home some fun together!

Wye - Thursday 11th June 2020

Departure - 9.30am at the Church & Whitchurch Memorial Hall, and 9.45am in front of the primary school in Wyesham.

Wye at St Fagans - 1pm to 4pm.

Wye info - www.wyereaches.org

Departure - our coach leaves at 9pm with arrival in Whitchurch & Whitchurch between 9 & 10pm approx.

Cost - £10

Got questions? Read a copy of these arrangements here! Or write to Sue Morris

07773437329

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Let us know to book: Monday 18th May

